

# ***Education Legislative Monitor***

***Congressman Jim Nussle***

***Manchester, Iowa***

Spring 2003

## ***Jim Nussle's Agenda for Iowa...***

***' Protect our  
Nation with  
Homeland Security***

***' Strengthen the  
Family Farm***

***' Fair Taxation  
and Responsible  
Budgets***

***' Long-term Energy  
Strategies***

***' Retirement  
Security for All  
Iowans***

***' Modernize  
Medicare and  
Ensure Health Care  
Access***

***' Student-  
Centered  
Education with  
Local Control***

***' Keep Promises  
Made to Our  
Nation's Veterans***

***' Grow Our  
Economy to Create  
Jobs***

## **Nussle Agenda for Student-Centered Education with Local Control**

*"No child should be left behind in Iowa's public education system. The federal government has a limited, but important role in helping to achieve that goal. We must reform education to ensure that high standards and accountability are part of the public education system controlled by teachers and parents in our local communities. The federal government must meet its funding obligations so as to prevent unfunded federal mandates that tie the hands of local school districts."*

**Jim Nussle**

Jim has worked on Iowa's education priorities since coming to Congress and will continue to work on these priorities in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Jim is working to achieve a positive legislative agenda for local control of education in Iowa. After countless meetings with Iowa educators and parents, as well as through letters, e-mails and phone calls, he has created the following goals.

### **Reforming Education with Local Control Goals:**

- 1. Local Control**
- 2. Accountability**
- 3. Testing Created and Delivered Locally**
- 4. Choice for Parents**
- 5. Individuals with Disability Education Act (IDEA) Full Funding**

In order to achieve the goals to leave no child behind by reforming education with local control, Jim has sponsored and co-sponsored many pieces of legislation and, as the House Budget Committee Chairman, he has written many education items into his budget.

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## **Nussle's Energy Agenda Legislation:**

### **Energy Security Act (H.R. 6)**

- < Bolsters our national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil.
- < Encourages domestic energy production.
- < Extends and expands tax incentives for energy produced from open and closed loop biomass and wind.
- < Repeals 4.3 cent per gallon excise tax on barge and railroad diesel fuel.
- < Provides for energy efficient homes.
- < **Sets a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) to increase the demand for ethanol and biodiesel by 5 billion gallons by 2015.**
- < ***Approved by the House of Representatives on April 10, 2003.***

### **President's Plan**

- < On May 16, 2001, the Bush Administration published a report outlining its plans for developing a long-term national energy policy designed to aid the private sector in providing a sufficient energy supply to Americans.
- < The President is taking a fresh look at the raw materials used to generate power. The United States cannot continue to depend on foreign oil and natural gas.
- < Currently only 2 percent of our country's power supply comes from renewable resources. President Bush recognizes that it is important to expand the use of these virtually untapped resources.
- < Although the President's plan is a good start, Rep. Nussle believes we can and should do more to promote wind, ethanol, and other biobased fuels.
- < ***The House of Representatives followed the President's leadership by considering his long-term energy agenda and expanding it by approving a comprehensive energy bill, the Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) Act (H.R. 4), on August 1, 2001. The Senate approved its energy legislation on April 25, 2002. No further action was taken in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress.***
- < ***Rep. Nussle was appointed as a conferee for H.R. 4 by the Speaker of the House on June 12, 2002.***

### **Renewable Energy from Agricultural Products (REAP) Act (H.R. 2000)**

- < Promotes value-added agriculture by creating incentives to produce energy from products such as methane from manure, and other ag-related biomass.
- < Creates demand for another farm product while promoting conservation by allowing switch grass grown on CRP-enrolled land to be used as an energy additive without affecting the program's payment schedule.
- < Requires the federal government to exclusively use biodiesel-blended fuels in its vehicles with diesel powered engines.
- < ***Sponsored by Rep. Nussle. Portions of the REAP Act regarding the creation of incentives for producing biomass energy from grain, crop residues, and wood were included in the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act (H.R. 3090). Approved by Congress on March 8, 2002. Signed into law by the President on March 9, 2002.***

### **Resource Efficient Appliance Incentives Act (H.R. 1332)**

- < Creates an incentive for appliance manufacturers to develop energy-efficient household appliances.
- < ***Sponsored by Rep. Nussle.***

**Ethanol Energy Promotion Act of 2001 (H.R. 1999)**

- < Promotes the development of small ethanol cooperatives.
- < Protects the environment by totally and immediately banning the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) as a fuel additive.
- < Requires the federal government to exclusively use ethanol-blended fuels in its vehicles.
- < *Sponsored by Rep. Nussle.*

**Clean Air and Water Preservation Act of 2001 (H.R. 608)**

- < Congressman Ganske's legislation to ban MTBE as a fuel additive over the course of five years.
- < *Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle.*

**Wind Energy Production Tax Credit (H.R. 876)**

- < Promotes wind energy as a clean and efficient energy source by extending the current wind energy tax credit for an additional five years.
- < *Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle. Included as part of the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act (H.R. 3090). Approved by Congress on March 8, 2002. Signed into law by the President on March 9, 2002.*

**Renewable Fuels for Energy Security Act of 2001 (H.R. 2423)**

- < Lessens reliance on foreign oil, and promotes ethanol and biodiesel by requiring motor fuels to contain a percentage of alternative fuels.
- < *Co-sponsored by Rep. Nussle.*

**Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002**

- < Provides funding for the CCC Bioenergy Program.
- < Establishes a Biobased Product Purchasing Preference program to test biobased products.
- < Reauthorizes and funds the Biomass Research and Development Act through 2007.
- < Establishes loans and grant programs for Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements.
- < *The House approved a 2001 Farm Bill (H.R. 2646) on October 5, 2001. The Senate approved its version of the farm bill (S. 1731) on February 13, 2002. The Farm Security & Rural Investment Act of 2002 was approved by the House on May 2, 2002, the Senate on May 8, 2002, and was signed into law by the President on May 13, 2002.*